



HAMPSHIRE
CONSTABULARY



Our ref: Operation Endeavour

Dear Parent/Carer,

Shirley Infant School has been given the opportunity to work in partnership with Hampshire Constabulary to safeguard children and young people at risk of harm from going missing from home or care. This initiative is called Operation Endeavour and is due to be launched in Southampton in May 2022.

The Department for Education statutory guidance Children who run away or go missing from home or care states:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307867/Statutory_Guidance_-_Missing_from_care_3_.pdf

- that approximately 25% of children and young people that go missing are at risk of serious harm;
- there are particular concerns about the links between children running away and the risks of sexual exploitation;
- missing children may also be vulnerable to other forms of exploitation, to violent crime, gang exploitation, or to drug and alcohol misuse.

The aim of this initiative is for the police notify the school, on the next school day, when a child or young person has been missing from home and for services to be able to work together where needed to ensure the young person is supported appropriately.

The process will supply up to date information to the school allowing appropriate support to be put in place to assist then to support the young person on/for their return to school. This will support the long-term wellbeing of children who have gone missing.

The information shared will be received by a dedicated member of the school staff, known as a designated safeguarding lead, who is appropriately trained to manage this information. This allows them to liaise with the police and other professionals when relevant and to use the information that has been shared in confidence. This enables the school to implement support and safeguarding for children and young people affected by these incidents.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all children and young people and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved. If you would like to know more about Operation Endeavour and how it can support you child if they ever go missing please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead at school.

Yours sincerely

D/Supt Amanda Horsburgh
Hampshire Constabulary
Head of Public Protection

Yours sincerely

Mrs Gregory
Head Teacher
Shirley Infant School

Mrs Hixon
Head Teacher
Shirley Junior School